

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 385

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC

SECDEF WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 17559

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RP

SUBJECT: LAO T-28S AT UDORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: (A) BANGKOK 26001 (B) STATE 288544 (C) BANGKOK 26081

1. AFP LEARNED WEEKS AGO OF PRESENCE AT UDORN OF THE FULLY MODIFIED T-28S (LAO) IN CONNECTION WITH INSPECTION OF VIETNAM/CAMBODIAN T-28S PROVIDED IN INITIAL ALLOCATION. AFP DID NOT CONCEAL ITS INTEREST IN THESE CLEARLY SUPERIOR T-28D AIRCRAFT.

2. JUSMAG HAS NOW INFORMED THE AFP IN VERY CONDITIONAL TERMS THAT THESE T-28DS MIGHT RPT MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE. THE AFP HAS EXPRESSED ITS STRONG INTEREST IN ACQUIRING THEM AND WILL BE EAGERLY AWAITING FURTHER WORD ABOUT THEIR AVAILABILITY.

3. A PROMPT GO-AHEAD TO PROVIDE THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE 14 MODIFIED T-28DS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN EASING

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AFP CONCERNS ABOUT THE TIME AND EXPENSE WHICH WILL BE RE-

QUIRED TO PUT INTO SHAPE THE MAJORITY OF THE T-28S PROVIDED IN THE FIRST ALLOCATION. (AT THE MOMENT, AFP FREIGHT FORWARDER IS EN ROUTE TO BEGIN TALKS WITH THAI-AM REPRESENTATIVES ON CONTRACT FOR CRATING AND REMOVAL OF VIETNAM/CAMBODIA T-28S AND WILL IMMEDIATELY BE CONFRONTED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE LAO T-28S.) ON THE OPERATIONAL SIDE, THE MODIFIED T-28DS WOULD BE MORE IMMEDIATELY USEFUL TO THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE. IT WILL TAKE MANY MONTHS TO GET THE OTHER AIRCRAFT OPERATIONAL.

4. WE STRONGLY URGE (1) NIPPING IN THE BUD THE SUGGESTION FROM THE THAI SUPREME COMMAND (REF C) THAT THESE FULLY MODIFIED LAO T-28DS MIGHT BE SWAPPED FOR OTHER (LESSER QUALITY) T-28S IN THAI INVENTORY AND (2) EARLY AUTHORITY TO TELL THE AFP TO BEGIN MOVING ALL THE LAO T-28S ALLOCATED IN REF B. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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